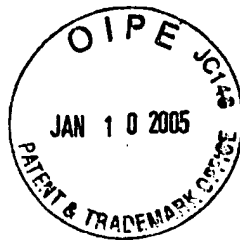


USSN: 10/737,171



Atty. Dkt. No. 052546-0169

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicants: Robert GILSON and  
Robert NORTON

Title: PROBE TIP ALIGNMENT FOR  
PRECISION LIQUID HANDLER

Appl. No.: 10/737,171

Filing Date: 12/16/2003

Examiner: Robert R. Raevis

Art Unit: 2856

<p><b>CERTIFICATE OF MAILING</b></p> <p>I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop AMENDMENT, Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450, on the date below.</p> <p>Kathryn E. Cox (Printed Name)</p> <p><i>Kathryn E. Cox</i> (Signature)</p> <p>January 7, 2005 (Date of deposit)</p>
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**AMENDMENT AND REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION UNDER  
37 C.F.R. § 1.116**

Mail Stop AMENDMENT  
Commissioner for Patents  
PO Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This communication is responsive to the Final Office Action dated October 20, 2004, concerning the above-referenced patent application. The period for the response to this Office Action is set to expire January 20, 2005. Therefore, it is believed this response is timely filed.

Applicants do not believe that any fee other than that enclosed for the Terminal Disclaimer is due for this filing. However, should a fee be due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees due in connection with this submission to Deposit Account No. 50-2350. Should a petition for an extension of time be required for this communication, applicants hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 to make submission of the papers submitted herewith timely, and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit

Account No. 50-2350. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 50-2350. For the purpose of charging said deposit account, a duplicate of page 1 and the signature page of this response is submitted herewith.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 3 of this document.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 6 of this document.

Please amend the application as follows: